

systematic courses of lectures by duly qualified and registered medical men, and that the curriculum of instruction and lectures should be at least equal to that contained in the recognised schedule of study. Hospital committees, Matrons, and lecturers thus entered into a bond with the Association as well as with their own trainees to carry out certain definite educational measures. Under such circumstances it is a source of great satisfaction to find that in the main these different authorities have shown a praiseworthy eagerness to fulfil their respective duties, with the result that a large number of trainees have already come forward and satisfactorily answered the tests put to them by the Conjoint Board of Examiners. But on each occasion when the crucial test has been thus applied, certain shortcomings have made themselves distinctly manifest. For example, in one country hospital it was found that 'the Matron had not given a single lecture to her trainees during the whole year, that the two hospital doctors whose names appeared in the Register as lecturers had similarly failed to give any lectures, and that the resident medical officer had delivered six lectures only in the twelve months.' After such a consensus of neglect, it is not to be wondered that "the exhibition of bandaging by the trainees was deplorable, and their ignorance of instruments and splints absolute." Again, from want of the opportunity to acquire practical experience in the operating theatre, a certificated nurse of a leading metropolitan hospital was unable when asked to give even the name of one of the simplest and commonest gatures in everyday use.

"In view of these and similar faults of omission, it cannot be too strongly impressed on the responsible authorities that when a trainee gives three years' work for small remuneration, and in some cases for none at all, and has entered the hospital with every confidence that she will be afforded all the training required under the agreement with the Association with whom rests the power of finally registering her, the hospital part of the contract is to give her every opportunity of fulfilling all the demands of the curriculum. To accept her work and at the same time to fail to make the proper provision for her training, is nothing less than a breach of contract.

"In justice to a section of nurses thus unfortunate in their training, we have felt it obligatory not to allow even these exceptional cases to pass without notice. At the same time we have no doubt that all concerned will see that it is their paramount interest as well as their bounden duty to take forthwith such steps as will prevent any possibility of the repetition of such unsatisfactory results. For any hospital that fails to fulfil its educational obligations must inevitably lose in reputation as a training-school, and in the no distant future find it difficult to secure trainees."

On June 2nd ult. a fresh unit with the organisation of the Australian Army Medical Corps was inaugurated, viz., the Australian Army Nursing Service of Victoria. It is modelled on the Imperial Army Nursing Service, the Imperial conditions being modified to suit the local requirements of the Commonwealth Service. The uniform will be similar to that of the Imperial Service, but the facings will be chocolate instead of scarlet.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A WELCOME GIFT.—The Princess of Wales has sent a spinal carriage for the use of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. At this time of the year such a gift is especially welcome.

CHIEF SURGEON TO THE POLICE.—The Home Secretary has appointed Mr. Clinton Thomas Dent, F.R.C.S., to the post of Chief Surgeon to the Metropolitan Police, rendered vacant by the death of Mr. R. O. McKellar.

FIRE-PROOF HOSPITAL BUILDINGS.—Ever since the Colney Hatch disaster, attention has been directed to the danger of ordinary corrugated iron buildings lined with match-boarding, and to designing temporary buildings which are practically fire-proof. Recently a practical test by fire of two huts specially erected for the purpose was witnessed on the ground adjacent to the Fountain Hospital buildings by those interested in fire-proof buildings. One hut was constructed with timber frame covered externally with galvanised corrugated iron, and having a lining of felt and pine; the other hut had a timber frame covered externally with iron, and lined internally with Uralite sheets, and having the face of the wood framework covered with Uralite strips. Both huts were filled with inflammable material, and were set on fire at the same time. Within half an hour the first-named hut was totally destroyed, while the other hut was none the worse.

THE SHADWELL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.—It is very regrettable that Colonel Needham, who presided over the half-yearly Court of Governors of the East London Hospital for Children, was compelled to announce that if the hospital were not better supported some wards would have to be closed or the Governors would have to sell out some of the hospital's securities, and this notwithstanding that while the records of the last six months show an actual increase, a considerable reduction in expenditure has been effected. It would, indeed, be a calamity to the sick children of the East End if this admirable institution were compelled to close any of its beds for lack of funds. It deserves, and we hope may receive, substantial public support.

A NEW OPERATING THEATRE.—It is proposed to erect a new operating theatre at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, the present accommodation being both insufficient and inefficient. The cost is put at £1,000, towards which nearly £300 has been subscribed, and it is hoped to raise the whole without recourse to the capital of the hospital.

MICROBES AND MADNESS.—The Paris correspondent of a morning paper relates that on Saturday last a messenger named René Meulard became suddenly mad under remarkable circumstances. A hawker who was selling microscopes at fivepence each, desirous of proving that his praise of the microscope was not mere boast, held it in his hand, which was covered with animalculæ. The tremendous size to which these animalcule grew under the glass proved the worth of the microscope. Meulard took the microscope, and finding himself in a quiet place began a microscopic

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)